[31st January 1929

A.—(*a*) An order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was served on a speaker in Vellore on 5th January 1929. Presumably the hon. Member has this in mind.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The Government have made no comment on it.

(*d*) No such instructions are called for.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know if the Government have called for information under what circumstances the order under section 144 was issued at Vellore ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Government have called for the information and the answer is based on that information."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" From whom did that information come ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" From the District Magistrate."

Alleged issue of orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, on a Congressman at Vellore.

* 1235-B *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that while Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Nayakar and Mr. Surendranath Arya were allowed to hold a conference and preach against society and religion at Vellore early this month, the police and the magistracy prevented meetings being held under Congress auspices by serving orders under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code ;

(*b*) whether it is the policy of the Government to put down Congress activities and encourage anti-Congress activities ; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take any steps to indicate their position in the matter ?

A.—(*a*) The gentlemen mentioned addressed meetings organized by the North Arcot Non-Brahman Youth League on the 4th and 5th January; the Government have no information that they preached against society and religion. Counter-meetings were also organized by the Congress party on the same days. At the meeting of the Non-Brahman Youth League party on the 4th there was stone-throwing by the Congress party, and the situation becoming more strained during the 5th, some disturbance to the public peace was apprehended by the local authorities. Accordingly one order under section 144 was served on one Congress speaker as the circumstances rendered this action necessary.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The Government see no reason to do so.